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SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN AND HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: REPORTS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES, CONFERENCES AND RELATED QUESTIONS: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE THIRD DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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Introduction

1. The present document contains information from Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations concerning the Third Decade and the Programme of Action.

I. GOVERNMENTS

Denmark

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[20 April 1995]

2. The Royal Danish Ministry of the Interior reported that the Danish policy of integration and of eliminating racial discrimination is a comprehensive one, consisting of a wide range of complementary institutions and activities. The policy both relies on measures directly aimed at racial discrimination such as legislation and information, and also on tolerance building more indirectly and on integration measures in the broadest sense. The latter includes, inter alia, comprehensive integration programmes as well as more broadly based efforts to improve local community relations. Concerning social attitudes and the integration and participation of immigrants and refugees, the report acknowledged that the situation is not fully satisfactory. New initiatives to overcome this situation included the following.

Legislation currently in force

3. In Danish law the basic assumption is one of equality between Danish citizens and citizens of other countries who have a permanent residence permit. One of the few exceptions is that only Danish citizens can vote in national elections, whereas local elections are open to immigrants and refugees, subject only to a requirement of three years' residence prior to the election.

4. Danish law contains several provisions aimed directly at eliminating racial discrimination or similar types of discrimination of unequal treatment:

(a) Section 266 b of the Danish Penal Code states that "Any person who, publicly or with the intention of wider dissemination, makes a statement or other communication by which a group of people are threatened, insulted or degraded on account of their race, colour, national or ethnic origin, religion or sexual orientation, shall be liable to a fine, simple detention or imprisonment for any term not exceeding two years.";

(b) Promulgation Order No. 626 of 29 September 1987 warrants penalization for discrimination in establishments and at arrangements open to the public;

(c) Act No. 466 of 30 June 1993 on the Racial Equality Board establishes a mechanism to combat unequal treatment in all its aspects and to support equal opportunities for all ethnic groups in society. The Board may not deal with individual complaints, but studies trends and general problems of inequality, on the basis of which it provides advice to the proper

authorities. The Board also plays an awareness-creating role, e.g. by organizing meetings and conferences. The Board is currently working in four main areas to promote tolerance and ethnic equality: media, the labour market, the police and judiciary and the welfare and health sector.

Measures to prevent intolerance and to promote integration

5. A wide-ranging set of activities and measures for tolerance and integration are being implemented in Denmark.

6. The Danish Refugee Council's integration programmes contribute to the social participation and integration of refugees and their families in the social, cultural, linguistic and other relevant fields. The Council, inter alia, provides language and vocational training as well as advice and assistance on social matters. A total of DKr 518 million was appropriated for the activities of the Council in 1994. After a comprehensive 18-month integration programme the Danish municipalities take on the responsibility for further integration activities.

7. The Danish Government facilitates the setting up of and provides economic support for various associations and councils for immigrants and refugees, allowing them an effective means of voicing their concerns and wishes in relation to their situation in Danish society. Among the most important examples are the two non-governmental organizations, the Federation of Ethnic Minorities in Denmark and the Immigrants Council in Denmark. The Council of Immigrants, which is a forum for all immigrant organizations, provides advice to the Minister of the Interior on all matters related to immigration and integration.

8. Such associations, various other non-governmental organizations and municipalities organize a wide range of projects, clubs and other activities, aiming at special support to immigrant women, children and the young, among others.

9. The Ministry of the Interior administers a special grant for matters relating to immigrants and refugees of approximately DKr 5.6 million each year. The purpose of the grant is to promote understanding, tolerance and openness between Danes and immigrants/refugees by supporting meetings and cultural arrangements in local communities, and via dissemination of information. Grants can be applied for by individuals, associations and institutions.

10. In 1993, the Ministry of the Interior established an ad hoc committee on the integration and the rights of immigrant women. The committee will make recommendations concerning cultural, social, health-related and other aspects of foreign women's integration and legal status.

11. The Danish Ministry of Cultural Affairs administers a grant entitled, "Sport for Refugees", which supports local associations, etc., that make special efforts to encourage refugees to participate in sport and athletics. Under the 1994 Appropriation Act, DKr 2 million were set aside for this grant.

12. In 1992, the Danish Ministry of Labour set up the Barrier Commission. Its task was to outline measures to break down the special barriers relating to immigrants' and refugees' employment, vocational training and links with the labour market. The commission has made a number of recommendations and the Minister of Labour has presented a plan of action.

13. Information activities include the newsletter, "Nyhedsbrev om Danmarks Udaendinge", published by the Ministry of the Interior, the publications of the Danish Red Cross concerning, inter alia, the reception of asylum seekers, and a variety of other informational initiatives based on film or printed media.

14. A number of ministries have joined forces with the government committee named The Town and City Committee to discourage the phenomenon of high concentrations of refugees and immigrants gravitating to specific municipalities and residential areas characterized by large numbers of socially underprivileged tenants. Experience has demonstrated that this can contribute to negative attitudes towards immigrants and refugees. A number of proposals have been made to encourage a broad range of activities and interventions in the fields of housing policies, education and training, crime prevention and programmes of activation and participation in various leisure activities, associations and clubs.

15. The Council of Europe adopted in Vienna on 8-9 October 1993 a plan of action for combating racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and intolerance. Part of the plan of action, a campaign aimed particularly at the young, will have a national and local dimension in Denmark, carried out by the Danish Youth Council, the Ministry of the Interior and a wide range of other institutions and organizations which constitute the membership of the National Committee set up under the campaign. In all likelihood, the campaign will consist of measures of general awareness creation and information and special measures to promote cultural meetings through activating and integrating young members of ethnic minorities in leisure activities, associations and clubs, frequented also by Danes.

16. Furthermore, the Nordic Council has resolved to implement a Nordic campaign against racism and xenophobia. This campaign will be closely linked to the Council of Europe campaign and will be implemented in such a way as to avoid repetition or inefficiency.

Possible future initiatives

17. In the framework of the various bodies mentioned above, a number of activities on integration will be launched.

18. The most comprehensive new initiative is probably that of the Barrier Commission and the Plan of Action of the Minister of Labour which give rise to activities to promote the introduction of immigrants in the labour market.

These activities are grouped under such headings as activities for mutual cultural understanding, counselling, education, training and untraditional employment projects.

19. The Racial Equality Board, the Ministry of the Interior and other relevant partners will undertake other aspects of a renewed response to intolerance and discrimination. Preliminary deliberations on this matter anticipate increased use of:

(a) Targeted cooperation between the social authorities, schools and the police as a good example of a form of local mediation and prevention mechanism in relation to xenophobia;

(b) Codes of conduct that companies and associations can adopt, with the aim of avoiding discrimination and the like;

(c) Education for particular groups on discrimination, human rights, etc. For instance, education specifically for the police, prison officers, journalists, local authorities, primary and lower secondary school teachers, health workers and so on;

(d) Education in primary and lower secondary schools on the subjects mentioned.

20. Possible initiatives will include increased use of:

(a) Printed and electronic media;

(b) Articles, novels and poster competitions;

(c) Debates in community centres, as well as schools, universities and evening schools;

(d) Diverse forms of cultural meetings, festivals and exhibitions, where Danes can encounter foreign cultures and vice versa;

(e) Encouragement of participation of persons of ethnic minorities along with Danes in leisure activities, associations and working life so that Danes and foreigners can gain mutual respect in daily situations.

21. Probably many of these activities will be undertaken in the years to come as a result of initiatives emanating from, inter alia, the Racial Equality Board, the Town and City Committee and the national part of the Council of Europe youth campaign.

22. The Danish report annexed copies of Promulgation Order No. 626 of 29 September 1987 on the prohibition of differential treatment on the grounds of race, etc., and Act No. 466 of 30 June 1993 establishing the Racial Equality Board.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[2 May 1995]

23. The Government of Mexico stated that Mexico is a party to international legal instruments that prohibit racism and racial discrimination, such as the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Government of Mexico is currently considering the possibility of ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

24. The Government noted that Mexico possesses several mechanisms and bodies established for the purpose of assisting vulnerable groups, especially indigenous peoples. It is worth mentioning in this connection that the National Commission for Human Rights has not received a single complaint regarding racial discrimination since it was established in 1990 and that the United Nations Centre for Human Rights has not transmitted to the Government of Mexico any substantiated communications concerning racial discrimination.

25. The Government of Mexico wished to explain the origins of the discrimination that has been recorded in Mexico against some members of indigenous populations, since it is believed that discrimination in Mexico is based, not on racial or ethnic grounds, but rather on factors of a socio-economic nature, and that it is directed against members of indigenous communities, peasants and marginalized urban dwellers. Poverty or extreme poverty, together with the high levels of illiteracy and marginalization of these groups are believed to be responsible for making them vulnerable to abuses committed by individuals linked to the governmental authorities, who in certain circumstances take advantage of the ignorance and defencelessness of these persons to commit acts that violate their fundamental rights.

National programmes for protection of the human rights of indigenous peoples

26. The National Commission for Human Rights established the Indigenous Affairs Programme in January 1991, under the powers set forth in articles 2 and 3, sections II and IV, of its statutes. The aim of the Programme is to devote special attention to this population group which, because of its socio-economic and cultural characteristics is the most vulnerable social group in the country with respect to human rights violations. The Programme functions through the Indian Affairs Unit, attached to the Second General Inspectorate, which uses strategies different from those normally employed for resolving other complaints submitted to the National Commission for Human Rights.

27. As a part of the Second Inspectorate, the Indian Affairs Unit receives and processes complaints of violations of the human rights of indigenous people. The complaints currently processed are those which name the federal authorities as allegedly responsible or those involving authorities of

federal agencies which, because of their importance or the type of violation concerned, affect the interests of indigenous groups as a whole. Complaints that do not come within one of these categories are dealt with by the competent local commissions.

28. The National Commission for Human Rights also receives complaints during the work projects carried out in communities in the indigenous regions where a specific work programme is being executed. Finally, alleged violations of the human rights of indigenous persons that happen to reach the Commission by any means whatsoever, even when a formal complaint has not been filed, are processed ex officio.

29. To date, the National Commission for Human Rights has issued 40 recommendations on indigenous matters, relating to matters which have included the following: freedom of movement; agrarian matters; arbitrary arrest; house searches; injuries; delay of justice and religious freedom. The demand of indigenous peoples for access to State courts has broad implications and seeks an honest and effective dispensing of justice that will guarantee full respect for individual and social guarantees and recognition of the ethnic and cultural specificity of these peoples.

Administration of justice

30. In connection with the dispensation of justice by the Office of the Attorney-General of the Republic, it is necessary to mention here the establishment in 1994 of the Office of the Special Prosecutor for Indigenous Affairs, whose function is to provide special treatment in justice matters for indigenous persons involved in any offence. Likewise, one of the priority objectives of the General Directorate for the Protection of Human Rights, a branch of the Office of the Attorney-General of the Republic, is to inform and sensitize its staff to the rights of indigenous persons involved in pre-trial investigation procedures, by means of training courses.

31. The National Commission for Human Rights has carried out several studies which formed the basis of legislative work in 1991 amending various provisions of the Federal Code of Criminal Procedure and the Code of Criminal Procedure for the Federal District. Among the subjects of amendments to the Codes were the following: the right of indigenous people who do not speak Spanish sufficiently well to be assisted by a translator at all stages of criminal proceedings; and the judge's obligation to obtain all the information needed to assess the personality and circumstances of persons belonging to ethnic groups when they are involved in the commission of an offence.

32. In keeping with these amendments, the National Institute for Indigenous Affairs has encouraged the participation of indigenous translators in court proceedings for the purpose of providing assistance to indigenous people involved. More recently, the Institute's Legal Anthropology Sub-Unit has been using fieldwork experience in indigenous regions where there are conflicts between legal customs and the national legislation, as a basis for proposing

an expert body to help resolve such conflicts. The ethnic groups are also asking for justice to be dispensed in a way that will help them to overcome their situation of inequality and to achieve their potential development in peace and freedom, according to their own choices.

33. In specific legal terms, indigenous peoples' demand for justice focuses on the criminal, agrarian and labour areas.

34. The National Commission for Human Rights, together with the National Institute for Indigenous Affairs, the Department of the Interior and the Office of the Attorney-General of the Republic, conducted a programme of early release for indigenous prisoners, under which 2,683 indigenous persons have obtained early release since the establishment of the Commission.

35. As part of the work of the Department of Social Development, an Administration of Justice Programme was established; it administers social and legal services aimed at resolving the legal problems faced by ethnic groups daily. Specifically, the programme provides translation, advisory assistance and legal defence services for indigenous persons who are on trial or who seek to defend their rights in order to avoid discrimination in the system of justice. If the accused lacks resources, the programme bears the costs of fines, reparation of damage or security for conditional release; such payments must not exceed a fixed amount and are recoverable.

Legislative measures taken

36. The negative economic and social situation of the indigenous peoples is more acute where minors, women and the elderly are concerned. The National Commission for Human Rights has therefore recommended that when federal and local laws are enacted, these circumstances should be taken into account and approached from the standpoint of human rights protection.

37. The presence of indigenous peoples in Mexico makes it necessary to develop new areas of autonomy and respect for the right to be different. The 1992 amendment to article 4 of the Constitution constitutes a step forward in the recognition of the right to difference and therefore of respect for legal customs. Nevertheless, there are shortcomings in many of the laws and regulations, in some cases serious ones, inasmuch as there is failure to recognize the traditional and customary rules that govern lives and relationships in the indigenous world. This means that in order to make the above-mentioned principle effective, the Parliament should supplement it by enacting laws and regulations consistent with the 1992 amendment.

38. The National Commission for Human Rights has recommended that State constitutions and legislation should establish rules, measures and procedures to ensure protection of and respect for the languages, cultures, usages and customs of the indigenous communities located in their territories, as well as specific forms of organization in all areas that are at variance with the Constitution. The measures adopted would be measures of public policy taken in the interest of society. Some progress has been achieved: there has been an initiative to amend the Constitution of the State of Oaxaca so as to grant recognition to bilingual education; the Constitution of San Luis Potosí refers to the State's multicultural composition; the Government of the State of

Veracruz has established the Office of the Assistant Attorney-General for Indigenous Affairs, which is considering setting up itinerant public prosecutor's offices and taking account of the indigenous cultural environment in applying the legislation, with the object of explaining behavioural differences.

Promotion and publicizing of the rights of indigenous peoples

39. As part of its efforts to publicize the rights of indigenous peoples, the Indigenous Affairs Unit of the National Commission for Human Rights is carrying out two projects that are worthy of mention. The first is a pilot programme in the Mixe de Oaxaca area, where the inhabitants were informed of the existence of the National Commission, its nature, functions and competence and its readiness to receive complaints. The second project is a pilot programme in the mountains north of Puebla, the result of which was a report describing the socio-economic and political conditions in the region, which give rise to violations of indigenous people's human rights.

40. The National Commission for Human Rights, in cooperation with the National Institute for Indigenous Affairs, also prepared a pilot programme in the Tarahumara mountains, to disseminate information on human rights, the aims and functions of the National Commission for Human Rights and the procedures enabling it to receive directly complaints of alleged violations of the human rights of members of the indigenous communities.

Research and investigations

41. As a result of the research and investigations conducted by the National Commission for Human Rights on the basis of a number of complaints submitted in 1990 and relating to violations of freedom of worship in the Upper Chiapas region, a document was prepared describing the expulsions that took place, in which legal, economic, cultural and political factors as well as religious factors played a role. The report contains an analysis of the religious conflict experienced by some indigenous communities in this region, where various problems faced by the Tzotzil people are described, as well as their living conditions, their forms of political, social and religious organization and their participation in regional and national affairs. The National Commission for Human Rights also believes that development programmes should be expanded or reinforced and more resources allocated to the area, if the living conditions of the indigenous people in the Upper Chiapas region are to be improved.

National development programmes for the benefit of vulnerable groups

42. With the aim of taking full-scale action to ameliorate the conditions in which the indigenous peoples and ethnic groups live, the Department of Social Development, as part of its National Solidarity Programme, developed a set of strategies for strengthening the indigenous peoples' traditional organizations, promoting their customs and traditions, providing them with basic services, financing production-oriented projects, building roads and securing justice for them.

43. In 1990 regional solidarity funds for the development of indigenous peoples were established. Their principal purpose is to finance viable and socially beneficial production-oriented projects in order to create paying jobs and strengthen the communities' internal organization. The funds operate in a decentralized manner and support agricultural, livestock-raising, fishing, handicraft and agro-industrial activities and the provision of services for the indigenous communities. Every year the regional funds receive resources for new projects, the interest on which is used to constitute a revolving fund for increasing the regional funds' autonomy and capital.

44. The regional solidarity funds for the development of indigenous peoples in Oaxaca, Veracruz, Puebla and Yucatán have been the most active ones in terms of financial resources allocated, participation of organizations, jobs created and territorial coverage.

45. In 1991 a solidarity fund for the promotion of the cultural heritage of indigenous peoples was established. This fund finances projects for the revival of traditional music; the preservation of sacred and historic sites; the strengthening of radio communications among peoples and encouragement of the transmission of indigenous lore. The objective of the solidarity fund for the promotion of the cultural heritage of indigenous peoples is to provide economic support for projects to preserve, enhance, record, document, study, expand and develop the indigenous cultural heritage on the basis of the indigenous peoples' own initiatives and needs.

46. The Fund operates with resources from the National Solidarity Programme and State and local bodies. For efficiency of operation it is subdivided into five areas corresponding to the cultural activities that are supported:

(a) The support fund for community ethnic culture, which is intended for cultural projects conducted by the indigenous people themselves that require additional financing;

(b) The fund for the strengthening of musical culture, which is a revolving fund for financing the purchase of new instruments and equipment for bands, solo orchestras and traditional music and dance groups;

(c) The fund for the protection of sacred and historic sites, which provides financing for protecting historical and sacred sites that have been abandoned or risk being or have been destroyed or pillaged;

(d) The support fund for the media transfer, which expands the indigenous radio broadcast system by providing resources for the community members in charge of it and for community production centres. It also finances the transfer of video equipment;

(e) The support fund for the traditional transfer of knowledge, which seeks to revive and protect the knowledge possessed by the oldest members of the indigenous communities by providing economic incentives for them to transmit their knowledge to the younger generations in their communities.

47. The Programme aims at establishing a basic services infrastructure, financed in a tripartite manner: through federal and State Governments; other participants (principally employers); and, to a lesser extent, the farm labourers themselves. The Programme's projects and activities have been carried out in 150 municipalities in 15 States of the Republic, where 646 work units in agricultural areas, camps, shelters and communities have received assistance.

48. Through its social work activities the Programme provides support for health, nutrition and environmental sanitation; conducts activities involving care for children under 16 years of age, training for schoolchildren and adults, recreation and culture; and promotes registration in order to avoid a situation where farm labourers lack identity papers in their own country.

Morocco

[Original: French]

49. The Government of the Kingdom of Morocco stated that in its resolution 49/146, the General Assembly of the United Nations reaffirmed "its firm determination and its commitment to eradicate totally and unconditionally racism in all its forms" (second preambular paragraph). This resolution concerning the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination cannot fail to secure the unequivocal support of all justice-loving countries, having regard to the new forms of discrimination that prevail in several of the world's regions and having regard also to the intolerance that is associated with it.

50. Paragraph 6 of the resolution refers to the question of migrant workers. In this connection it is pointed out that the monitoring of questions relating to the situation of migrant workers, the arrangements for and reception of such workers and the protection of their interests is one of the major concerns of the Moroccan Government.

51. It was reported that a feature of the action by the Moroccan public authorities in this field is the continuation of contacts and dialogue with the Governments of receiving countries, with the object of safeguarding the rights of migrant workers and improving their situation and that of their families. Because of the great importance of this matter and the high priority given by Morocco to its migrant workers and traders, a Ministry for Moroccan Nationals Abroad and the Hassan II Foundation for social questions affecting Moroccan workers abroad and members of their families were set up in 1991.

52. The equality of everyone before the law is legally established by the Constitution and by legislative and administrative provisions. Article 5 of the Constitution provides that "all Moroccans are equal before the law" and article 12 states that "all citizens shall have equal access to public office and employment".

Norway

[Original: English]

53. The Norwegian Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs report covered action taken at the national and regional levels, illustrated by measures taken in education, employment, housing, criminal justice, media and anti-racist activities.

54. In regard to affirmative action programmes at the national level, the Norwegian migration policy is aimed at genuine equal status for immigrants and Norwegians. As far as possible, immigrants are to have the same opportunities, rights and obligations as the rest of the population.

55. Foreign nationals and Norwegians have the same legal status unless exceptions are given by law to provide non-equal treatment of nationals and foreign nationals when such differentiation is justifiable according to article 1.3 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

56. All public authorities and bodies, including the courts, are obliged to take into account the equality under the law of all persons regardless of their ethnic, racial, cultural or national origin. Immigrants are on an equal footing with other inhabitants as regards having to accept laws and basic values which prevail in Norway, regardless of their personal views.

57. The core of the policy regarding legal immigrants is that they should be able to participate in society - politically, economically and socially - without having to accept cultural assimilation. However, it is recognized that the integration of immigrants and various immigrants groups is a continual bilateral process and the goal of equal status requires continued efforts to give immigrants the same opportunities to acquire an education and obtain employment as the rest of the population. From 1991 onwards education, and in particular instruction in the Norwegian language for all age groups, access to the labour market and anti-racism, have been singled out for special attention and concerted action. These target areas are reiterated in the Government's Long-Term Programme 1994-1997 (report No.4 to the Storting (1992-1993)) as main policy areas concerning immigrants in that period.

58. "Equality and equal status apply to all pupils, irrespective of their personal abilities, their sex, the colour of their skin, and discriminatory attitudes towards groups of pupils or individual pupils. The school has a special task in bringing up the pupils to understand and develop a feeling of solidarity with minority groups in our own country and with people in other countries". (Curriculum Guidelines for Compulsory Education in Norway.)

59. In Norwegian schools the principle of equality and equal status must be practised in everyday life. Equality and equal status apply to all pupils, irrespective of their personal abilities, their sex, the colour of their skin, and their social, cultural and religious background. Furthermore, the aims of equality are incorporated through the Adult Education Act and the

educational programme for immigrants, etc. Special efforts to combat racism and xenophobia in the field of education for adult immigrants are, however, not specified.

60. As for employment, the philosophy behind labour law is equal opportunities for all and equal treatment of all employees and, as a rule and in accordance with the Working Environment Act, section 55 A, an employer may not demand that applicants supply information concerning their political, religious and cultural views, or on membership in labour organizations. Neither may the employer effect measures to obtain such information by other means. The intention of this provision is to prevent people from being excluded from working life because of political, religious and cultural opinions or labour union membership. The aim is to secure the employee's integrity and the constitutional freedom of faith, thought and speech according to persuasion. In addition, the provision ensures that the activities of political, religious and cultural organizations and institutions will not be restricted.

61. A general aim for labour market policies is to promote equal opportunities in the labour market for immigrants and Norwegian citizens. Norwegian Labour Market Authorities arrange courses which are specially adapted to the needs of refugees and migrant workers, i.e. with facilities for language training combined with vocational training. Unemployed immigrants participate in labour market schemes more frequently than other unemployed persons.

62. The Government's aim is to increase employment of immigrants and to reduce the disparity between work and qualifications. In April 1993 a governmental committee submitted a report with 53 proposals for improved use of the skills of immigrants. The Ministry of Local Government is responsible for the coordination of the follow-up of the committee's proposals. The report contained proposals on approval of education and professional experience from the native country, Norwegian language training to be able to cope with work and education, qualification improvement to be able to compete on the labour market, how to enter a difficult labour market, self-employment of immigrants and reinforcement of different basic knowledge. The follow-up of this work will continue for some years and will be evaluated yearly. The evaluation of the plan's first year has recently been carried out.

63. Immigrants and refugees have the same rights as Norwegian citizens regarding the granting of State subsidies for the purpose of acquiring a dwelling. The Norwegian State Housing Bank offers several general loan arrangements for the purchase of a dwelling. These loans are available to everyone with no regard to nationality or to the length of time one has resided in the country and do not require a means test.

64. Nationality does not exclude anyone from becoming a member of a housing cooperative or from acquiring a cooperative dwelling. Discrimination on the grounds of nationality is illegal according to the Housing Cooperatives Act, where it is stated that a housing cooperative cannot refuse to accept a new cooperative member without good reason. The purchaser's political beliefs, religious beliefs and nationality are not defined as good reasons for refusal.

65. The police counters racism by means of preventive measures which include work in the schools and interdisciplinary cooperation with other services and organizations to develop methods to counteract racism, xenophobia and intolerance. In addition, the police give priority to dealing expediently with criminal cases and to keeping specific groups under surveillance.

66. The Norwegian media has had a tendency to focus more on negative happenings (such as "anti-immigrant" demonstrations) than on positive actions. Therefore, in 1992, the Ministry of Local Government arranged a press seminar about racism and discrimination. At the seminar, the Minister of Local Government announced grants for journalists who wanted to study the integration process more thoroughly. The grants are now administered by the Director of Immigration. Two journalists each receive NKr 20,000 each year.

67. Measures against racism and ethnic discrimination have been important elements of the Norwegian Ministry of Local Government and Labour's efforts since 1988. The Ministry's role is to initiate measures on its own to influence and cooperate with other authorities. In relation to other ministries, the Ministry of Local Government and Labour is a driving force in countering racism and discrimination. Through an Action Plan on Racism and Ethnic Discrimination (*Handlingplan mot rasisme og etnisk diskriminering, 1992*), importance has been attached to:

(a) Development of better instruments for measuring discrimination, including racial violence and harassment;

(b) Swifter reactions against persons who have committed racial violence and harassment and development of legal instruments in cooperation with the legal authorities. The Director of Public Prosecutions is following up complaints lodged under articles 135a and 349a of the Penal Code;

(c) Efforts to improve the education of key personnel to improve public services to ethnic minorities. The Ministry's education programme "Norway as a Multi-cultural Society" (*Norge som flerkulturelt samfunn, 1992*) is widely used in health, journalist, police and teacher training;

(d) Increasing awareness of racial harassment as a social problem;

(e) Better coordination of data collection;

(f) Dealing with local experiences in a more systematized fashion in order to disseminate important lessons to other communities;

(g) Development of the attitudes of young Norwegians.

68. It was the Norwegian Prime Minister who called for a European Plan of Action against racism and discrimination under the auspices of the Council of Europe, which resulted in appendix III to the Vienna Declaration adopted at the Council's summit in October 1993.

69. In addition, the Prime Minister initiated in December 1992 a Youth Campaign against Racism, Intolerance and Xenophobia in Norway. The leaders of all the political youth organizations, ranging from left to right, were to

lead the campaign. The concept was that political messages to young people are most effective when they come from youth leaders themselves. The political youth organizations were therefore given the task and financial resources to formulate and run a campaign directed at youth in the whole of Norway. Several activities, among other things a "tour against racism" and an information campaign, took place in 1994. The Government earmarked NKr 10 million for the project. The Norwegian Youth Campaign against Racism has, all in all, fulfilled the expectations. Fifty-seven local committees of the campaign were established. Hopefully, these committees will continue their work against racism through an "anti-racist network" established by the Anti-racist Centre.

70. The experiences from the Norwegian campaign, the cooperation between different organizations and the establishment of local committees were good starting points for the work of the national committee of the Council of Europe's campaign against racism in 1995. The Norwegian part of this campaign, which is called "Youth against Racism-95" (*Ungdom mot rasisme-95*), was launched at a press briefing on the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on 21 March. The national committee plans several activities: support to local initiatives against racism; seminars; distribution of information material to schools and youth organizations; writing competition about racism; participation on a Nordic "train against racism" which will be driven to Strasbourg and participate at the European Youth Week in July 1995. The national committee plans to pay special attention to the situation of the Roma on the United Nations Day on 24 October 1995.

71. The Government considers information activities to be extremely important in combating all forms of racial discrimination. A number of measures have been initiated to counter propaganda directed against immigration and immigrants. The Directorate of Immigration plays a key role in these efforts. The Directorate publishes information and background material specially designed for the mass media, schools and the general public. It also trains municipal and State employees and members of youth associations and other organizations in relevant skills and topics.

72. One of the objectives of the Directorate of Immigration is to work for positive relations between Norwegians and immigrants. The Directorate's attitude-shaping information activities are mainly based upon a network consisting of organizations and their individual members.

73. It is difficult to measure the results of much of this work, but there is increased awareness of the problem of racism and discrimination in Norway. An important area to concentrate on is to counter indirect discrimination and marginalization. An example of such work is the Ministry of Local Government and Labour's Plan of Action for Better Utilization of Immigrant Skills (*Handlingsplan for bedre bruk av innvandreres kompetanse, 1993*). In the coming years the Ministry will also focus on providing support to immigrants with low skills. This will include Norwegian language instruction in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Research and Church Affairs.

74. The Government report was also illustrated by a successful national/regional model to eliminate racism, the Brumunddal Action Plan (1992-1994), a Norwegian project undertaken in response to an actual local situation with an emphasis on youth activities and other preventive measures at local and central government levels.

Russian Federation

[Original: Russian]
[27 April 1995]

75. The Government of the Russian Federation noted that General Assembly resolution 49/146, entitled "Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination", and the revised Programme of Action annexed thereto urge Member States to make active efforts and to take concrete steps to combat all forms of racism and racial discrimination, which constitute the most serious violations of human rights in the contemporary world.

76. It was emphasized that Russians share the international community's commitment to the goal of eradicating fully and without reservation all forms of racism and racial discrimination.

77. There has been an increase in cases of incitement to social, racial, national and religious hatred and of the dissemination of Fascist ideas in Russia. The unconstitutional activity of extremist individuals and associations is becoming increasingly widespread. These dangerous phenomena constitute a threat to the foundations of the constitutional order.

78. With a view to securing human and civil rights and freedoms, ensuring the stability of the constitutional order and social safety, and preserving the political integrity of the Russian Federation, on the basis of articles 13, 15, 80 and 82 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation and article 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the President of the Russian Federation, Boris Yeltsin, has signed a decree on measures to coordinate the activities of State organs in their efforts to combat manifestations of Fascism and other forms of political extremism in the Russian Federation.

79. The decree, which came into force on 23 March 1995, is consistent with General Assembly resolution 49/146, which urges all Governments to take all necessary measures to combat new forms of racism, in particular by adapting constantly the means provided to combat them, especially in the legislative, administrative, educational and information fields.

80. The presidential decree provides for specific legislative and administrative measures to stimulate and strengthen efforts to combat manifestations of racism and fascism. The competent authorities are given the appropriate specific instructions and recommendations. Thus, the decree provides for the strengthening of the supervisory functions of the Procurator's Office over observance by all enterprises, institutions, organizations and public associations on the territory of the Russian Federation of constitutionally established norms on the equality of citizens, irrespective of their social, racial, national, linguistic or

religious affiliation, preservation of the dignity of the individual and prohibition of the establishment and operation of associations whose aims and activities are intended in particular, to stir up social, racial, national or religious hatred.

81. The Procurator-General of the Russian Federation is empowered to cooperate actively in this sphere with the Presidential Commissioner for Human Rights, the Presidential tribunal for information disputes, interested social organizations and the mass media.

82. The Ministry of the Interior, the Federal Counter-Intelligence Service, the State Customs Committee and the Federal Borders Service are directed, within the limits of their competence, to arrest and prosecute, in conformity with existing legislation, persons who disseminate written, cinematographic, photographic, audio or visual material intended to propagate Fascism or to stir up social, racial, national or religious hatred, and to take measures to confiscate such printed matter and material.

83. In considering applications to hold assemblies, meetings or demonstrations, executive organs and institutions of local government are instructed not to authorize the holding of any such events by social organizations or individuals if they have earlier made any public statements constituting, in particular incitement to social, racial, national or religious hatred.

84. The decree recommends that the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation should provide interpretations of concepts and terms contained in current legislation regarding responsibility for activities intended to foment social, racial, national and religious hatred.

Saint Lucia

[Original: English]
[6 April 1995]

85. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Home Affairs of Saint Lucia informed the Secretary-General that activities of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other related intolerance are non-existent in Saint Lucia.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

[Original: English]
[13 April 1995]

86. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Tourism of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines reported that as a multiracial nation, there are no problems concerning racism and racial discrimination. The Constitution, as is the case with most former British Caribbean nations, has built into it the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms; section 13 guarantees protection from discrimination on the grounds of race.

87. If they exist at all, incidents of racial discrimination are minimal and do not merit any further legislation.

San Marino

[Original: English]
[19 April 1995]

88. The Secretariat of State for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of San Marino underlined that even if the Republic of San Marino has never experienced any manifestation of racism or racial discrimination, the Republic pays great attention to this phenomenon in general, and to the education aspect in particular. The education of young people to tolerate and respect all human beings, for which the school is mainly responsible, represents for San Marino a continuation of deep-rooted attitudes, and an old tradition of hospitality and solidarity.

89. The legislation in force in San Marino confirms in a clear and unquestionable way the principle of non-discrimination, to which both the legislator and the judge are bound. As set forth in article 4 of the Declaration of Rights of 1979, "all men are equal in the sight of the law, without distinction of any kind, such as personal, economic and social conditions, religion or political opinion".

Slovakia

[Original: English]
[23 March 1995]

90. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic provided its "National report of the Slovak Republic on problems of fighting racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and intolerance", prepared by a government committee. The main issues brought to the fore were as follows.

91. The Slovak Republic was declared an independent and sovereign State on 1 January 1993. Slovakia's adoption of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms was a significant legal act.

92. Democratic principles have been confirmed by the admission of the Slovak Republic as a member of the Council of Europe.

93. The Slovak Republic can be characterized as a Central European country with a population of approximately 5.3 million. Within the last 100 years this area belonged to several State formations (Hungarian Empire, Austria-Hungary, Czechoslovakia) and thus, along with citizens of Slovak nationality (86 per cent), Hungarians (10.8 per cent), Romany (1.4 per cent), Czechs (1 per cent), Ruthenians, Ukrainians, Poles, Germans and others (totalling about 1 per cent) live in Slovakia. It can be stated that all nationalities as social and cultural groups have long been adapted to the cultural space of Slovakia.

94. After illustrating the national and political background as one conducive to a preference for tolerance and justice for all as life values of the population, the government committee reported on the legal system.

95. In the legislation of the Slovak Republic there are no legal regulations that would even indirectly lead to or promote discrimination of citizens or groups of citizens on racial, national, ethnic, religious or similar grounds.

96. The social and cultural life is characterized by a high level of stability and tolerance. No manifestations of cultural nationalism, racism or intolerance have been reported. This is a result of good relations without significant conflicts, mutual interaction and the generally high standard of the conditions for the cultural development of national minorities.

97. In defining current problems, it was noted that despite the positive consequences of democratization and the current social and political changes in the society, the new social situation has brought with it a new differentiation in the distribution of wealth. Thus, unemployment has increased crime and the first signs of social insecurity have begun to create space for intolerance, xenophobia and racism.

98. The government committee found that the media reinforced this tendency. The element of morally unrestrained freedom of speech in the media, gradually emerging mainly on TV, film and video, was a channel for uncontrolled dissemination of various manifestations of violence, intolerance and aggressivity, affecting mainly the youth. Although uncritical adoption of such models, values or norms of behaviour does not occur on a large scale, their action, even if below threshold level, is likely to have a cumulative effect and can in the long run become dangerous.

99. Periodicals and the non-periodical press also contribute to the spread of intolerant views, mainly in the problem areas of political and individual intolerance, a significant feature being the violation of journalistic ethics. In fact, it is the dissemination of incomplete, unfounded news, if not lies, and of false or distorted information which evidently creates space for an intolerant and confrontational atmosphere.

100. In their reporting of manifestations of intolerance, some foreign media use biased and distorted information about the events and phenomena occurring in Slovakia. This is due either to disinformation or insufficient knowledge of the situation.

101. Even in Slovakia problem areas do exist. Since January 1993, there have been reports of three cases of damaging of Jewish cemeteries and synagogues on the territory of the Slovak Republic. The investigations revealed that the damage to the cemeteries, which did not include defamatory slogans, was more a manifestation of common vandalism and hooliganism than the work of purposefully established organized groups. In 1994, a rabbi was attacked in Bratislava, but no motive of anti-Semitism was confirmed. The offender was a 14-year-old boy who could not be legally prosecuted. At present, the police have no evidence of the existence of organized groups, movements or individuals promoting racism and racial discrimination.

102. The basis of current legislation, is the Constitution which, in its provisions concerning human rights and freedoms, closely follows the principles of equality and accountability of citizens regardless of skin colour, nationality, political convictions, social position and religious

belief. The definition of human rights and liberties of citizens stated in chapter 2 of the Constitution is in harmony with the European Convention on Human Rights.

103. The report considered that the provision concerning the rights of national minorities (contained in article 34 of the Constitution), which is currently becoming a sensitive and frequently cited issue, surpasses European standards and is comparable with similar provisions in the most developed democratic States.

104. One article of the Constitution determines that constitutional laws, laws and other generally binding legal regulations adopted by the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic remain in effect unless they are in contradiction with the present Constitution. It concerns mainly the provisions of the Criminal Code prosecuting violence against a group of citizens or an individual; provisions relating to defamation of the nation, a race or a denomination or incitement to national or racial hatred; and provisions prosecuting support and promotion of movements resulting in the suppression of the rights and liberties of citizens. These provisions also stipulate appropriate sanctions for acts which defy the principles and provisions reflected in the Constitution and in the European Convention.

105. The current criminal legislation of the Slovak Republic provides comprehensive protection against manifestations of racism, Fascism, anti-Semitism and intolerance. In the legal provisions for the establishment of voluntary national cultural unions, associations and organizations, the State is responsible for contributing financially to their activities. At the same time, these provisions preclude the creation of nationalistic, racist or similar associations.

106. In these provisions, any discrimination on the grounds of nationality or race is banned and the State guarantees the creation of conditions favourable to the development of the cultural identity of national minorities, education, participation in public life and the solution to problems concerning national minorities.

107. Current legislation provides for prosecution when the provisions are infringed. However, more concrete legal measures would be appropriate for particular sectors (e.g. in the Act on the Press, the Act on Political Parties and the Act on Association of Citizens) so that potential gaps in the Criminal Code could not be abused. Laws concerning detention and imprisonment comply with the Standard Minimum Rules for the treatment of Prisoners as well as with the European regulations according to which the treatment of imprisoned persons must be accorded impartially without regard to skin colour, race, religion or political convictions, national and social position, sex, etc. These issues have not been treated separately in internal standards but in practical life the general rule is applied that human dignity must not be violated by imprisonment.

108. In the assessment of manifestations of and consequent punishment of criminal cases relating to racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and intolerance, such criminal activity had not been statistically surveyed separately until 1992. In the surveys, along with motivation for criminal activity only

the following aspects were recorded: greediness, political hostility, personal hostility, negative attitudes to society and its values, civil disobedience, negative personality traits and anti-socially oriented personality. Only in 1992 did political, national and other intolerance become a separate statistical heading. Since then and until September 1994, 409 persons in the Slovak Republic were convicted under this code.

109. The law stipulates legal accountability and sentences for support and promotion of fascism or other similar movements resulting in the suppression of the rights and liberties of citizens, or for preaching national, racial or religious intolerance. The law also distinguishes offences as to whether they are committed through the press, film, radio, television or other similar ways. The Criminal Code stipulates accountability and sentences for publicly expressed admiration of Fascism or similar movements.

110. The basic policy of the Government of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic contained the principles of tolerance of national and ethnic minorities, directed towards the elimination of all forms of discrimination, racism and involuntary assimilation of individuals. The new laws of the Slovak Republic, in particular the Constitution, vest analogous responsibilities in the State, in particular the Government Council for Minorities and the Government Council for the Prevention of Crime. Slovakia has adopted principles governing its policy concerning Romany and principles concerning cultural policy. The latter is being formulated and the democratization of the cultural sphere highlighted, promoting projects to teach about diversity of cultural heritage and its manifestations.

111. The Ministry of Culture has identified the principle concepts of transformation strategies of culture. In respect of further democratization of the cultural sphere, it is intended to promote projects enhancing knowledge of different cultural manifestations, emphasizing activities which increase sensitivity towards humanistic cultural values, a tolerant perception and atmosphere for cultural manifestations and for people of other cultures. Funding of cultural activities in nationally mixed areas has also been secured.

112. The Government scrutinizes the state and level of the development of cultural life of national minorities and ethnic groups and supports projects and events organized by them, such as the round table discussions initiated by the President for national minorities and ethnic groups.

113. Since in the Slovak Republic no significant manifestations of racism or other intolerance have occurred to date, the problems of legislative effectiveness have not been tested. The violation of human rights occurs in individual cases and the cases of protection of persons against published false information in the media were tackled in accordance with the current legislation.

114. It is hard to generalize because of insufficient experience of the Slovak Republic in fighting racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and intolerance. Current experience indicates a general need for democratization and creation of transparent rules governing the work of advisory bodies of the Government

and the particular ministries concerned. The recently created Government Committee for Fighting Racism, Xenophobia, Anti-Semitism and Intolerance is expected to carry out more concrete tasks.

115. In Slovakia activities to counteract racism include the implementation and promotion of multicultural and multinational projects, cultural festivals and exhibitions, and scientific conferences on issues of national minorities and ethnic groups.

Switzerland

[Original: French]
[20 April 1995]

116. The Government of Switzerland stated that following the affirmative vote cast by the people on 25 September 1994, the Swiss Criminal Code and Military Criminal Code have been amplified by the addition of provisions (art. 261 bis of the Criminal Code and art. 171c of the Military Criminal Code) that are designed to combat racial discrimination.

117. This modification of the law made it possible for the Federal Council to give notification, on 29 November 1994, of the accession of Switzerland to the 1965 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The Convention entered into force for Switzerland on 29 December 1994. A first report on the implementation of the Convention is to be submitted to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination by 29 December 1995. The preparation of this report will be the occasion for a review of the national position with regard to this question.

118. On 6 March 1995 the Federal Council also decided to set up a Federal Commission on Racism. One task of this advisory commission will be to ensure effective prevention of racist behaviour. For this purpose it may recommend to the Federal Council any measure which it deems appropriate. The Commission, which will begin to function on 1 July 1995 and will be composed of 19 members, will also be required to foster mutual understanding among persons of diverse origins. It will also be empowered to furnish advice to individuals at their request.

119. As part of the Council of Europe's Youth Campaign, the Federal Council appointed in November 1994 a National Committee to organize the Campaign in Switzerland. It also provided the Committee with the financial resources necessary for the conduct of the Campaign. The Campaign will include the following elements:

(a) A fund for the support of projects submitted by young people;

(b) A number of national events;

(c) Public relations operations;

(d) Partnership with a national committee in central or eastern Europe.

120. On 9 November 1995, the anniversary of the Kristallnacht, the Campaign will end with special ceremonies at the European level and in individual countries. Within the framework of the Council of Europe, Switzerland will also be participating actively, through Professor Joseph Voyame, in the work of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), one of whose working groups is chaired by a Swiss.

121. The Government of Switzerland also referred to the important work being done by various Swiss non-governmental organizations which have taken a strong stand in favour of the adoption by the Swiss people of criminal law provisions for combating racial discrimination. One example of this was the useful initiative taken by associations in French-speaking Switzerland that have formed the "Forum against Racism": the opening of a telephone line for receiving any type of complaint by victims of racial discrimination. This telephone line, which is currently being set up, aims to provide a service that will listen to complaints and provide advice.

II. INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Council of Europe

[Original: English]
[15 May 1995]

122. The Council of Europe reported that the heads of State and Government of the member States of the Council of Europe held their first summit in Vienna from 8-9 October 1993. There, they expressed their profound alarm at the upsurge of racism, anti-Semitism, xenophobia and intolerance in Europe, and accordingly adopted a Declaration and a Plan of Action to combat these phenomena, which constitute a real threat to the democratic stability of the continent (E/1994/97, annex I).

123. This Plan of Action provides for a threefold strategy:

Raising public awareness by means of a wide-ranging European campaign mobilizing, in particular, young people;

Reinforcing the guarantees against all forms of discrimination, through the creation of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance;

Stepping up and focusing intergovernmental cooperation within the Council of Europe in order to combat racism and intolerance more effectively, concentrating in particular on the fields of media and history teaching.

124. The European Youth Campaign against Racism, Anti-Semitism, Xenophobia and Intolerance was launched 10 December 1994. It operates at local, national and international levels, through national committees set up in each member State of the Council of Europe and aiming at reaching all sectors of society through a variety of activities such as seminars, preparation of education material, media and youth events, and competitions and prizes.

125. The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) was set up by the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the member States of the

Council of Europe, which took place in Vienna on 8-9 October 1993. It represents one of the pillars of the Plan of Action on combating racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and intolerance which was adopted at this Summit. The task of the Commission is to work towards the reinforcement of the guarantees against all forms of discrimination.

126. ECRI is composed of members chosen for their recognized authority and expertise in questions relating to racism and intolerance. According to its terms of reference ECRI is to examine and evaluate the effectiveness of legislation, policy and other measures taken by member States to combat racism, anti-Semitism, xenophobia and intolerance, and to stimulate action in this field at local, national and European levels. It is to formulate general policy recommendations to be addressed to member States and study relevant international legal instruments with a view to their reinforcement where appropriate.

127. The first stage of its activities, beginning 22 March 1994, was devoted to obtaining an overview of the situation in Europe through a detailed questionnaire to the Governments of member States and a number of non-governmental bodies. A comparative study of legislation in force in the different member States in the field of combating racism and intolerance, especially anti-discriminatory measures, was also carried out.

128. At its third plenary session, held at Strasbourg from 6-9 December 1994, the Commission began the next phase of its work: "stimulation/action" and drawing up concrete proposals. It established a Programme of Activities for 1995 comprising different spheres of action, the first being a country-by-country approach, the second concerning international legal instruments, and the third concerning the international dimension of combating racism and intolerance.

129. During 1995, on the basis of a flexible list of legal and non-legal measures which could be adopted to encourage tolerance, the Commission will examine the situation in each of the member States and formulate country-by-country recommendations. As regards international legal instruments, it will concentrate particularly on the European Convention on Human Rights by exploring the possibilities for strengthening the non-discrimination clause of the Convention.

International Criminal Police Organization

[Original: English]
[20 April 1995]

130. The International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), reporting that the organization is particularly involved in combating racism, noted that its Constitution, which refers to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, strictly forbids "the Organization to undertake any intervention or activities of a ... racial character". Furthermore, Interpol gives assistance to the repression of the crime of genocide. At the present times, the Organization actively cooperates with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

131. Interpol shall not give any assistance when an individual is pursued solely by reason of his race or his belonging to an ethnic group.

League of Arab States

[Original: Arabic]

132. The League of Arab States stated that under the Charter of the United Nations, States have an obligation to promote and respect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons throughout the world without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, being convinced that racism and racial discrimination are totally incompatible with the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. They are also firmly resolved to totally eliminate all forms of racism and racial discrimination, without any restriction or condition. In this connection, reference was made to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1994/2 of 18 February 1994, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention against Discrimination in Education, which was adopted by UNESCO on 14 December 1960.

133. Reference was also made to General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII) of 2 November 1973 concerning the first Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, resolution 38/14 of 22 November 1983 concerning the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, the recommendations of the two World Conferences to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination which were held at Geneva in 1978 and 1983, the outcome of the World Conference on Human Rights which was held at Vienna in 1993, and the concern shown for the Programme of Action with a view to the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the promotion of a peaceful transition to a non-racial democratic society in South Africa.

134. The League viewed with extreme concern the fact that, despite the endeavours made by the international community, the principal objectives of the two Decades to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination have not been attained and, even today, millions of human beings are still being subjected to various forms of racism, racial discrimination and racial segregation, which necessitate action to strengthen legislation and national institutions seeking to promote racial harmony through concerted international and national endeavours to finally eliminate all forms of intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief, to combat xenophobia and to protect the rights of migrants. This was emphasized by the League of Arab States in the Arab Plan of Action which it submitted to the World Conference on Human Rights held at Vienna in 1993 and which was adopted as part of the final recommendations contained in the Vienna Declaration.

135. The League emphasized that the Arab States attach great importance to the question of racism and racial discrimination with a view to the final elimination of all forms thereof. For its part, the League of Arab States stated that it is fully prepared to participate in the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and assist the

Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights to discharge his functions in the most effective manner with a view to the achievement of the progress and well-being to which all peoples are aspiring.

III. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

World Council of Churches

[Original: English]
[18 April 1995]

136. The World Council of Churches proposed launching a $1 campaign to fund the Third Decade and conserving the names of the contributors. The idea emanated from an international campaign to raise $1 million for the new Universidad Biblical Latinoamericana in Costa Rica by asking 1 million women to send $1 to help build the institution. The campaign is called ONE MILLION WOMEN. They are asking for only $1 because they would like all women to have an equal opportunity to participate.